

# BRISCOE BRIEFS



Vol 2

Briscoe School, Beverly, Mass., December, 1928

No. 2

## The Spirit of Christmas

What is this mysterious feeling and anticipation that has come into the world? It cannot be possible that the frosty tingling air has caused so much excitement. No, it is the spirit of Christmas. Even you who do not believe in the legend of "Santa Claus" are delighted and enthusiastic over this coming day. I am sure we all have, tucked away in a secret hiding place, some carefully wrought gift for father, mother, sister, brother, or kind friend. This need not be an expensive offering but just some small token of love and friendship. Those who cannot afford the smallest gift may offer a loving word, a thoughtful deed--kingly gifts, for they are strictly in keeping with the true meaning of Christmas as sung by the angels at the birth of Christ, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

Barbara Demack, Editor

## Greetings from Faculty

The Faculty wishes the pupils of Briscoe a Christmas of happiness and joy, and a New Year of the brightest prospects.

## Queen of Christmas

*Proud she stands in her glory,  
That evergreen from afar.  
Her raiment is jeweled and sparkling,  
Her crown---a silvery star.*

*Graceful and happy she poses,  
Like a queen on a glittering throne.  
Surely she's queen of Christmas,  
That fir tree that stands all alone.*

*All through the long Christmas evening  
She waits for the coming of day;  
On the morrow she'll yield from her  
bosom  
The gifts she has hidden away.*

*Oh, children, take from this fir tree  
A lesson of value, believe  
What the Christ Child, our Saviour,  
has taught us,  
'Tis more blessed to give than receive.*  
Barbara Demack, 8 G Ha

## Honors

Geno Pellegrini, 7 Ha., has won the Beverly School Calendar contest. The judges selected his drawing as the best among all those of the seventh grade pupils of this city.

Betty McPherson, 8 G Ha.



**The Briscoe Briefs**

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**Asst. Bus. Mgr.**

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Miss Hatch

**Business Advisor**

Miss Hartshorn

**8 CV's Health Club**

8 CV has a health club every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We appointed Rita Birmingham as President, and Esther Terrio as Secretary. We also appointed Dorothy Hopkins as a nurse to go around the room every morning for inspection.

After the opening of the meeting we complete all the unfinished work of our last meeting. Then we have health talks about hair, teeth, food, clothing, or any other important health subject.

At our last Thursday's meeting we had a health test given by Rita Birmingham, our president. It had ten questions about health.

Hazel Allen

**Do Dreams Come True?**

"Whoa!" Santa Claus called to his reindeer. They landed on the Briscoe School roof while school was in session. Santa seized from his bag a package labeled *Briscoe*, jumped from the sled, slid down the chimney, and landed lightly on the first floor. He hurried to the principal's office muttering, "Seems to me Mr. Cronin ought to be pleased with this." Santa then took from his package a large placard which read. "Briscoe School--100% in Promptness, Respect, Obedience, Intelligence, Safety First, Co-operation and Loyalty for the year 1929." He hung it over Mr. Cronin's desk and hustled away.

It was only a dream but if we tried hard enough, I'm sure we could make it come true.

Ethel Hatt, 8 G Ha

**P A 1 & P A 2**

The P A 1-2 boys have been making many useful things in the shop. We have made camp stools, and we are now making porch chairs. We made a treasury box for the Girl Scouts. We are going to do more useful things later on in the year.

John Turner

**P A 3**

P A 3 girls have been very busy this fall learning to do such useful things as darning stockings, making buttonholes, darning three-cornered tears in flannel, and dyeing, re-blocking, and trimming hats. At present we are making undergarments.

Josephine Arena

## Our Clubs

When the different clubs were announced, enthusiasm reigned, and when the time for organization came, the same spirited atmosphere remained. The Glee, Dramatic, Debating, Art, Math, Hobby, Home Making Clubs, and the Orchestra are all thriving.

The Glee Club has had its first meeting and Mary Scullin was elected president; Marion Semple, Vice-President; Martha Merriam, Secretary; Josephine Arena, Librarian; and Virginia O'Reilly, Assistant Librarian. Miss Robbins is in charge of this club which meets every Monday.

The Dramatic Club was so popular that it had to be divided into three groups. Miss Anderson has Group 1, Miss Hazelton has Group 2, and Mr. Cronin has charge of Group 3. Groups 1 and 2 are combined and have for their object at present the "characterizing of well known people." Group 3 is working "to discover the dramatic ability of all its members and then to give the girls and boys their chance to use this gift."

Group 3 meets the first Thursday, and Groups 1 and 2 the second Thursday. Officers for the combined three groups were elected at a meeting. Virginia Foster is President; Marjorie Robinson, Vice President; and Barbara Stiles, Secretary.

The Art Club has not as many members, perhaps, as other clubs, for not very many children have received that wonderful gift, "Art". They have however some very talented members and under the leadership of Miss Lyons they meet every Monday. The officers are Constance Alley, President, and Rosemary Pope, Secretary and Treasurer. At present they are painting wooden parrots, handkerchiefs, and scarfs.

The chairmen of the Math Club are Miss Eaton and Miss Varney, and the advisor is Mrs. Gould. The club is developing the "History of Mathematics." The President elected at the first meeting is Harold Smith; the Vice-President, Eva Howard; and the Secretary, Alison Black.

The Debating Club "is writing a constitution and also is looking up all points on debating." They have elected for President, Sidney Katz; Vice-President, Douglas Edwards; and Secretary, Barbara Moore. Their advisors are Miss Shatswell, Miss Lapham, and Miss Coleman. This club meets every other Monday.

The Hobby and the Home Making Clubs are connected in this way, "What the latter wants the former makes." The Home Decorating Club is very busy now making rugs for its model house. Some of them are braided and others drawn-in. It is most interesting work. The house is being made by Mr. Waite and his boys. It contains five rooms and they are so planned that housekeeping will be made as easy as possible. The President of the Hobby Club is Samuel Dinerman; the Secretary, Edward McGinn; and the Treasurer, Norman Kelly. The club meets with its advisor, Mr. Waite, every Tuesday and Thursday. Miss Pullin and Miss Loomis have charge of the Home Making Club. Rosemary Pope is President; Josephine Pellegrini, Vice President; Priscilla Stone Secretary; and Natalie Belnap, Treasurer.

The members of our sixty-three piece Orchestra, under Miss Robbins direction, are working very hard at their rehearsals every Tuesday.

Minnie Stern, 8 G Ha



## 8 G B

In geography 8 G B is taking a trip to Asia. We are visiting China at present, and are about to pack our grips and leave for India.

Our work is made interesting by keeping diaries of our trip.

*Attendance*

8 G B has twelve pupils who have had perfect attendance so far this year.

We hope to keep this record.

Barbara Jones.

## 7 L

In our history class, we sometimes play a very interesting game. Miss Lapham chooses a pupil to stand before the class and tell all he knows about some explorer without giving his name. The person who guesses correctly has a turn. This is very good fun, and teaches us our history as well.

Elizabeth Woodberry

## 8 C M

8 C M has had a hygiene club since the beginning of the year. The officers are:- Susie Dimala, Chairman; Gertrude Keefe, Secretary; Josephine Giovanetti, Assistant Secretary; Rosa Derino, Room Inspector; Evelyn Semple, Desk Inspector; Margaret Pisani, Nurse; Dorothy Schultz, Nurse of Posture; Mafalda Julius, Clothes Inspector; Charles Brook, Doctor; Albert Fabri, Temperature Man.

Susie Dimala

## 8 C Ha

8 C Ha has been doing some very interesting work in Business Practice. We are keeping the Briscoe Brief accounts. Each room is charged for the number of copies ordered and is given credit for cash paid as it is collected by our business manager and his assistant.

Besides being interesting work, Business Practice teaches us many things we shall need to know in every day life.

Gladys Perkins

## 7 R

The seventh grade under the direction of Miss Hazelton is taking an imaginary trip to Europe. Every place visited is written about in a loose leaf note book bought for the purpose. It is fun to find pictures of different places and paste them in the note book with the descriptions beneath them. We first visited the British Isles. It was a delightful trip, and we are now about to cross the English Channel to France.

Evelyn Thompson

## Basket Ball News

In basket ball the only thing we want is clean playing. "Play the game fair" is our motto in athletics as well as in our academic work. Mr. Cronin is giving up much of his valuable time to these games, so we should show our interest and appreciation by giving our best team work.

The first games played were:

## Girls

8 G H vs. 8 G Ha., Score 12—6

8 C H vs. 8 C S., Score 9—9

## Boys

7 L vs. 7 E., Score 6—4

Rosemary Pope, 8 G Ha.

### The November Assembly

Our monthly assembly was held Wednesday, November 28, under the direction of Miss Barker and Miss Hartshorn. The origin of Thanksgiving Day was given, and the proclamation was read.

The first scene in the Thanksgiving play was a tableau of the departure of the Mayflower to England. The second scene was the first Thanksgiving after the Revolutionary War. The third scene was at the end of the Civil War. The fourth scene was at the beginning of the World War. The last scene was Thanksgiving at Briscoe.

The chorus directed by Miss Robbins sang *Abide with me, We're Tenting Tonight, The Thanksgiving Hymn, Over There, Columbia, the Beautiful*.

After the play was over we sang some songs and cheers directed by Mr. Cronin.

Constance Alley, 8 G Ha.

### 7 Mc

Everybody likes pleasant surprises. When they are unexpected, they are all the more enjoyable. Miss Robbins received a real surprise one day when 7 Mc came in for music. We filed in a quiet and orderly manner, and settled down in a businesslike way. A song was assigned for study. After a few minutes we were called upon to sing what had we been studying. How we did sing! Everybody did his best. Miss Robbins wanted to know if Miss McCurdy had helped us with our music. So well had we done that she thought we must have had extra help. We hadn't, but perhaps we had caught a little of the spirit of Briscoe.

Barbara Stiles

### 8 G H

In geography G H 8 has been studying the Hawaiian Islands and Philippine Islands. We have made very attractive note books on both. We are now studying Japan, which is very interesting. We are looking for pictures of Japan and its new emperor for our Japanese note books. We are also rehearsing for a Japanese play which is to be given in the near future.

Dorothy Haffcke

### 7 La

#### *Our Health Club*

Our room has a health club called the Civics Club. The officers are: President Clifton Potter; Vice President, Reginal Gangloff; and Secretary, Roberta Miller. We gave topics the first of the year, but now the president has suggested that we have nine groups, and that each group select a topic and bring pictures to make posters illustrating it. After the posters are made, we shall study from them. Our club is getting along well, and we hope it will succeed in doing even better.

Kenneth Lang, 7 L A

### 7 Ha

#### *Our Imaginary Trip to the British Isles*

In geography we are taking an imaginary trip to the British Isles.

We have loose leaf notebooks in form of diaries or letters. The class set sail from Boston or New York and landed at Liverpool. From there we went to Bristol and then to London, where we studied its famous people. We are still in the southern part of England.

Donald Brown



## BERT'S EIGHTH CHRISTMAS

Bert had just one memory which he cherished. This was his father whom he could well remember. His mother he had never known. Bert was very sorrowful when his father went away. He was only four years old then! His aunt, with whom he had always lived, had so many cares and worries that she knew very little of the troubles in the little boy's heart.

As Christmas drew near each year, Bert hoped and prayed that his father would return in time for the holiday. Christmas came and went three times in the same way; watching, waiting, praying, hoping, but always disappointment for the boy.

Now Christmas was coming again and Bert's heart was lonely, for it was nearly four years since he had seen his father, and in his mind great pictures of a joyful reunion were ever before him. He had saved a few dollars, which he had earned, and he intended to have a big Christmas tree with candles and small sacks of tiny candies. Oh, what a jolly time he had planned!

His aunt asked him to go to the store for some raisins that she had forgotten to order, and on his way back he met his pal.

"Oh, Bert!" said Bob, wild with excitement, "There's a strange man at our house. He traveled all night to get here, and then hurt his foot when stepping off the train. They carried him to our house as it was near the station." Both boys went to see the unfortunate stranger who appeared to be a poor wanderer, and Bert's generous heart was touched.

Next day was Christmas! Bert went to the shops and bought, instead of a tree and candles, a pair of warm slippers for the "poor"

fellow. When Bert arrived with the gift, he found the stranger all dressed and ready to leave the humble home where he had received shelter after his accident. As the man shook hands with Robert's mother he thanked her in a nice way for her kindness and asked her if she knew a Mrs. Williams who had a nephew living with her. The boys listened attentively and Bert's eyes grew bigger and bigger. As the man told his story, Bert realized his dream was coming true. His father had really returned and was actually a Santa Claus from the gold country up north.

What a happy little boy fell asleep in his father's lap, and awoke on Christmas morning to find it was not a dream!

Richard A. Kelly, 7 Ha.

### 7 E

Miss Eaton's room has a graph upon which the pupils record personal cleanliness. Each row has a color and tries to keep its line on the 100% mark. The boys have greatly improved their personal appearances by wearing their ties and keeping their hands, face, nails, and clothes clean.

7 E is also very much interested in the health talks which Miss Eaton gives each morning.

Elmer Harrison

### 8 G Ha

Members of 8 G Ha take great pride in their English Class Book. We consider it an honor worth trying for to have one of our works in it. Only the best of our poems and are stories pasted in the book. Each one is illustrated with a fitting picture or snapshot. Minnie Stearns, Constance Alley, and Charles Bennett are the custodians of this book.

Marjory E. O'Donnell